

THE SPECIFICATION

Amend paragraphs 0002 and 0003 as follows:

[0002] Combines used in the harvesting for example of wheat, soy beans and small grains typically have a rotating cylindrical harvester reel at the forward leading end of the combine to sweep the crop which is to be harvested into the combine apparatus. These reels include a plurality of spaced horizontally extending support shafts which rotate with the reel and which have a plurality of pickup tines attached in side by side relationship to each other along the length of the support shafts. These pickup tines are typically molded in one piece integral construction of a durable plastic, such as for example, nylon, acetal or homopolypropylene, and include a clamp for clamping the pickup tine to the support shaft and an elongate curved finger of [[a]] approximately 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long which [[extend]] extends from the clamp so as to sweep the crop to be harvested into the harvester reel and combine.

[0003] In view of the rather severe environment in which these pickup tines operate and their functional purpose, the fingers of the tines are subject to breakage due to contact with rocks and other objects as well as the crop which itself is being harvested all of which are encountered while the rotating harvester reel is moving over the field being harvested. Various approaches have been employed to minimize to the extent possible such breakage. However, breakage of the fingers will invariably inevitably occur.